



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS WELCOMES KEY LEADER TO EXECUTIVE TEAM

Native Country, U.S.A., Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - The Association on American Indian Affairs, the longest serving Native non-profit in the United States, is pleased to announce that Kim Mettler, a citizen of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, has been appointed to serve as the Association's Next Generations Director. Kim brings over 25 years of experience in Native Nations law and policy, advocating for Native women and youth, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and resilience and well-being.

Kim will oversee the Association's Native Youth Justice reform, ICWA, Summer Camps, and all youth and family related initiatives. Kim will also lead the development and implementation of a new initiative centering intergenerational resilience, community healing and well-being. She will collaborate with the CEO and the Directors of the Association's Cultural Sovereignty and Building Allyship programs to serve Native Nations and their citizens, and to provide public education. Kim will support the Association's strategic development into its next 100 years of service to Native Country to create a world where diverse Native cultures and values are lived, protected and respected.

"I have known Kim for more than 20 years and have always admired how fiercely she stands for Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples. I am looking forward to working with Kim as she strengthens the culture and growth of the Association while leading our important goals to empower and protect Native children and families," said Shannon O'Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and CEO and Attorney for the Association. "The energy that Kim brings to everything she does is healing. I could not think of a better person to lead the Association's efforts to secure justice and protection for Native children and families as our Next Generations Director."

Kim's hiring comes at a time of expansion and momentum for the Association. Over the last several years, the Association has broadened its focus into new program areas, achieved major policy victories, and built powerful coalitions—all while staying true to its longstanding history as a Native-led grassroots organization. Kim's expertise and vision will provide valuable momentum as the Association enters its next century of service.

"It is a privilege to be a part of the legacy of advocacy that the Association is known for. I'm honored to contribute my experience, expertise and insight to its ongoing advocacy, support for Nation-building and to disrupting ongoing patterns of unresolved trauma to make room for our continued healing and growth for thriving future generations." Kim joins us from Tribal STAR, where she led a training and technical assistance program serving child welfare and probation professionals and promoting ICWA compliance, and teaming and engaging with Native Nations.

Kim is the founder of Heart River Coaching and Consulting, which provides resilience-oriented coaching, consulting, facilitation and mediation services. She holds a B.A. in Social Justice from Fairhaven College at Western Washington University, and a law degree from the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples' Law and Policy program. Kim has experience with mind-body medicine, peer support and is certified in mental health first aid.

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The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Native Country protecting sovereignty, preserving culture, educating youth and building capacity. The Association was formed in 1922 to change the destructive path of federal policy from assimilation, termination and allotment, to sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency. Throughout its 100-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that support sovereignty and culture, while working at a grassroots level with Native Nations to support the implementation of programs that support Native Peoples.

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